GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5374
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small farmers in the country fail to receive Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various crops due to nexus between middle men and Government officers;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received by the Union Government, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to provide the benefits of MSP of various crops directly to the small farmers;

(d) if so, by when this plan is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to promote horticulture and organic agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d): The Government fixes each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (F.C.I. − paddy, wheat and coarse cereals) Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.-Jute), Cotton Corporation of India CCI-Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED-pulses and oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking purchase operations in case, the market prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. There has been massive procurement of major agricultural commodities in recent years. The procurement operations are monitored and instances of prices ruling below the MSPs are referred to be concerned Departments/Ministries for necessary action.

(e): The Government is implementing several schemes for promoting horticulture and these include Integrated Programme for Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern region including Sikkim and various schemes undertaken by the National Horticulture Board and Coconut Development Board etc.

During the 10th Five Year Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, `National Project on Organic Farming` is under process which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming, capacity building for organic farming, promotion and extension of organic farming etc.